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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/536,721	03/28/2000	Toshiaki Hongoh	PM 266959	5386

7590 12/19/2001
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EXAMINER

LEE, CALVIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2825

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/536,721

Applicant(s)
Toshiaki HONGO

Examiner
Calvin L

Art Unit
2825



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

OFFICE ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Claims 1-17 are pending in this application.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under *35 U.S.C. 121*:

- (I) Claims 1-13, drawn to a plasma processing apparatus, classified in class 118, subclass 718.
- (II) Claims 14-17, drawn to a plasma processing method, classified in class 438, subclass 628.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as product made and process of making. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the product as claimed can be used to make other and materially different process or (2) that the process as claimed can be made by another and materially different product (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, unpatentability of the group I invention would not necessarily imply unpatentability of the group II invention, since the device of the group I invention could be made by a process materially different than that of the group II invention. For example, a plasma processing apparatus (or chamber) can be used not only for coating but also etching/cleaning a semiconductor layer.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, the fields of search are not coextensive. Therefore, separate examination would be required and restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be completed must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37CFR 1.143)

Contact Information

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the Examiner should be directed to *Calvin Lee* at 703-306-5854, Monday to Thursday, from 7 to 5 (Eastern Time). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, Art Unit 2825's Supervisory Patent Examiner *Matthew Smith* whose telephone number is 703-308-1323.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956 or (703) 306-3329. The fax phone number for the Group is (703) 308-7722.

CL

December 3, 2001



MATTHEW SMITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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